

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SITING COUNCIL

\* \* \* \* \*

CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER CO. \* APRIL 18, 2012  
\* (7:05 p.m.)  
\*

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF \*  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND \*  
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONNECTICUT \* PETITION NO. 424  
PORTION OF THE INTERSTATE \*  
RELIABILITY PROJECT THAT TRAVERSES \*  
THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LEBANON, \*  
COLUMBIA, COVENTRY, MANSFIELD, \*  
CHAPLIN, HAMPTON, BROOKLYN, POMFRET, \*  
KILLINGLY, PUTNAM, THOMPSON, AND \*  
WINDHAM, WHICH CONSISTS OF (A) NEW \*  
OVERHEAD 345-kV ELECTRIC \*  
TRANSMISSION LINES AND ASSOCIATED \*  
FACILITIES EXTENDING BETWEEN CL&P'S \*  
CARD STREET SUBSTATION IN THE TOWN \*  
OF LEBANON, LAKE ROAD SWITCHING \*  
STATION IN THE TOWN OF KILLINGLY, \*  
AND THE CONNECTICUT/RHODE ISLAND \*  
BORDER IN THE TOWN OF THOMPSON; AND \*  
(B) RELATED ADDITIONS AT CL&P'S \*  
EXISTING CARD STREET SUBSTATION, \*  
LAKE ROAD SWITCHING STATION, AND \*  
KILLINGLY SUBSTATION, REQUEST FOR \*  
PARTY/INTERVENOR STATUS. \*  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE. \*  
\*

\* \* \* \* \*

BEFORE: ROBIN STEIN, CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS: Larry P. Levesque, DPUC Designee  
Brian Golembiewski, DEP Designee  
Edward S. Wilensky  
James J. Murphy, Jr.  
Dr. Barbara Currier Bell  
Colin C. Tait  
Philip Ashton  
Daniel Lynch, Jr.

STAFF MEMBERS: Linda Roberts, Executive Director  
Christina Walsh, Siting Analyst  
Melanie Bachman, Staff Attorney

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 . . .Verbatim proceedings of a hearing  
2 before the State of Connecticut Siting Council in the  
3 matter of an Application by The Connecticut Light and  
4 Power Company for a Certificate of Environmental  
5 Compatibility and Public Need, held at the Lebanon Fire  
6 Safety Complex, 23 Goshen Hill Road, Lebanon, Connecticut,  
7 on April 18, 2012 at 7:15 p.m., at which time the parties  
8 were represented as hereinbefore set forth . . .

9  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN ROBIN STEIN: Good evening, ladies  
12 and gentlemen. I'd like to call to order this meeting of  
13 the Connecticut Siting Council relative to Docket 424. My  
14 name is Robin Stein, I'm the Chairman of the Connecticut  
15 Siting Council. Before reading the formal opening  
16 statement, I'd like to first welcome you to this first  
17 public comment session on this docket. We're, as you  
18 obviously know, the Connecticut Siting Council and I want  
19 to extend our welcome on behalf of both the Council  
20 members and staff. I also want to thank the town of  
21 Lebanon and the First Selectman for their hospitality  
22 here.

23 Let me first tell you just a little bit  
24 about ourselves. We are an executive branch agency of the

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 state of Connecticut. In the simplest terms, the scope of  
2 the Siting Council's exclusive jurisdiction in this case  
3 is to provide siting review with respect to proposals to  
4 develop large-scale, utility infrastructure, such as power  
5 plants, substations, and high-voltage transmission lines  
6 like the ones that are subject to tonight's hearing. To  
7 the extent that reliable electric utility service has  
8 become a part of a modern life our job is to ensure that  
9 such infrastructure meshes as well as possible with our  
10 State's communities.

11 The public mission of the Siting Council,  
12 therefore, is to act as an independent arbiter that  
13 balances the statewide need for these projects, at the  
14 lowest reasonable cost to consumers, with the need to  
15 protect the environment and ecology of the state. We have  
16 before us tonight an application by The Connecticut Light  
17 and Power Company for a high-voltage electric transmission  
18 line upgrade. This is the first of three stops on our  
19 listening tour related to the transmission line docket.

20 Clearly, we don't know your towns as well  
21 as you do, therefore, we appreciate you telling us how  
22 this proposal might affect you. And that's why this  
23 process is so important.

24 Your comments made here are frankly

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 essential to the important siting process. We take your  
2 remarks and input seriously and weigh them heavily in our  
3 deliberative process. It is on that basis that I thank  
4 you for taking the time to come this evening and share  
5 your views with us.

6 At this time I'll read the formal opening  
7 statement. I don't know if the First Selectman is here,  
8 but either she or any other public officials can speak and  
9 then we'll get to the sign-up list. Again, the hearing is  
10 called to order at approximately 7:15, today, April 18th,  
11 2012.

12 I'd like to ask everybody if you have your  
13 cell phones to please put them on silent mode, or turn  
14 them off. The members of Council that are here are  
15 Professor Tait, Vice Chairman; Mr. Golembiewski, designee  
16 from the Department of Energy and Environmental  
17 Protection; Mr. Levesque, designee from the Public  
18 Utilities Regulatory Agency; Mr. Ashton; Mr. Lynch;  
19 Senator Murphy; Dr. Bell; Mr. Wilensky. Members of the  
20 staff present are Linda Roberts, Executive Director;  
21 Melanie Bachman, Staff Attorney; Christina Walsh, our  
22 siting analyst, Gail Gregoriades, our court reporter;  
23 Joseph Reese and Aaron Demarist (phonetic), audio  
24 technicians; Lisa Fontaine, our administrative officer.

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1                   This proceeding is a contested case under  
2 the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act, and will be  
3 conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of  
4 the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and  
5 regulations of state agencies on an application of the  
6 Connecticut Light and Power Company for certificate of  
7 environmental compatibility and public need for the  
8 Connecticut portion of an interstate reliability project  
9 that traverses the municipalities of Lebanon, Columbia,  
10 Coventry, Mansfield, Chaplain, Hampton, Brooklyn, Pomfret,  
11 Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and Windham, which consists  
12 of (a) new overhead 345-kV electric transmission lines and  
13 associated facilities extending between CL&P's Card Street  
14 Substation in this town of Lebanon, the Lake Road  
15 Switching Station in the town of Killingly, and the  
16 Connecticut/Rhode Island border in the town of Thompson;  
17 and (b) related additions to CL&P's existing Card Street  
18 Substation, Lake Road Switching Station, and Killington  
19 (sic) Substation. This application is identified as  
20 Docket 424 and was received by the Council on December  
21 23rd of 2011.

22                   With concerns regarding electric and  
23 magnetic, or EMF fields, the Connecticut Siting Council  
24 wishes to point out that, in accordance with Public Act

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 04-246, our agency recently revised its "Best Management  
2 Practices for the Construction of Electric Transmission  
3 Lines in Connecticut." This document references the  
4 latest information regarding scientific knowledge and  
5 consensus on EMF health concerns. It also discusses  
6 advances in transmission facility siting and design  
7 techniques that can affect public exposure to EMF. The  
8 Council published this document after two and one half  
9 years of reviewing current scientific studies, including  
10 the World Health Organization, hiring Gradient Corporation  
11 as our consultant to aid in the documents preparation and  
12 conducting hearings for electric industry and public  
13 comment as well. This document, as well as other  
14 information regarding EMF can be found on our website at  
15 [www.ct.gov.csc](http://www.ct.gov.csc).

16 As required by law, ex parte or off-the-  
17 record communications with any Council member or Council  
18 staff member on the merits of this application is  
19 prohibited.

20 The parties and intervenors to the  
21 preceding are as follows: The Connecticut Light and Power  
22 Company with its representative, Attorney Anthony  
23 Fitzgerald. Party NRG, it's Attorney, Andrew Lord; a  
24 party Victor Civie; a Party EquiPower, it's Attorney,

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 David Bogan and Attorney Baldwin; Party UL Company,  
2 Attorney Bruce McDermott. I guess also Richard Civie and  
3 also Party, Edward Hill Bullard.

4 The hearing held tonight is solely for the  
5 public, and obviously that's you, to make brief oral  
6 statements into the record. Specifically, this is an  
7 opportunity for citizens who are not formally  
8 participating in the process as a Party or Intervenor to  
9 make their views known to the Council. These public  
10 statements are not subject to cross-examination and  
11 submission thereof, does not entitle the submitter the  
12 right to cross-examine the Applicant, Parties,  
13 Intervenors, or the Council.

14 However, I will mention, if you have  
15 specific questions, you can put them in the record,  
16 however, after the hearing is formally closed there are a  
17 group of CL&P representatives that will be -- that are in  
18 that area and you can specifically ask any questions you  
19 want to them. But that will be after the hearing is  
20 closed. As I said, put your questions on the record, they  
21 can't technically answer on the record because they  
22 haven't been sworn in, that will happen at a later date,  
23 but you can get information specifically or try to get the  
24 answer to your questions from them. They have a whole

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 group of people who should be able to answer your  
2 questions.

3 In fairness to everyone who wishes to  
4 speak, I'd like to hopefully limit the public comments to  
5 three minutes. As mentioned before, they will become --  
6 all comments become record for the Council consideration.

7 In addition, any written statements you can either  
8 present them now or you have within 30 days after the last  
9 hearing session in this proceeding, and they'll be given  
10 the same weight as any spoken comments. The mailing  
11 address for the Council is 10 Franklin Square, New  
12 Britain, Connecticut 06051, which should appear somewhere,  
13 that information.

14 A verbatim transcript will be made of each  
15 hearing session and all hearing transcripts will be  
16 deposited with the Town Clerk offices in the  
17 municipalities that I just mentioned. After all public  
18 hearings in the municipalities have been concluded, the  
19 Council will continue hearings for the purpose of cross-  
20 examination of evidence by the Council, staff and parties  
21 and intervenors. The evidentiary portion of this hearing  
22 will begin on Monday, June 4th, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at  
23 Central Connecticut State University Institute for  
24 Technology and Business Development at 185 Main Street, in

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 New Britain. Additional dates have been scheduled and are  
2 posted on the Council's website at [www.ct.gov.csc](http://www.ct.gov.csc).

3 And there's a sign-up sheet on the table  
4 there for those, we do have some names here on this sign-  
5 up sheet, for any additional individuals. At this point,  
6 and for the public here, and also for the Council, I've  
7 asked the applicant to explain the general nature of this  
8 application. I believe they have a brief, hopefully  
9 brief, presentation on the application, its proposed  
10 benefits, it's alleged need and what alternatives were  
11 explored. And I'll ask the applicant to show your video  
12 at this time? I don't know if you're going to need some  
13 reduction in lights, I believe --

14 A MALE VOICE: I think it's okay.

15 (Whereupon, a video was shown.)

16 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. We'll now  
17 begin with -- is there anyone, any public official that  
18 would like to speak at this time? Okay. So far we have  
19 three people on the sign-up list. The first person is  
20 Roger Adams. To the mic and please give your name and  
21 address. Thank you.

22 MR. ROGER ADAMS: Thank you. Good evening.

23 My name is Roger Adams. I'm a resident of Mansfield,  
24 residing at 282 Wormwood Hill Road. I'm employed as the

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 President of the Chamber of Commerce for the Windham  
2 region and I've worked for quite a few years.

3 The Chamber is organization of about 325  
4 employers in the 13 towns around Windham and Mansfield.  
5 Together, they employ approximately 25,000 people and  
6 they're heavily dependent on the availability of reliable  
7 energy supplies to keep their doors open and to both  
8 retain and create job opportunities. On March 19th our  
9 Board of Directors voted to support the recommended route  
10 for the interstate reliability project. That action  
11 endorsed the March 15th recommendation of our legislative  
12 committee. Our belief is that the project will increase  
13 the capacity of CL&P to deliver power to Connecticut  
14 customers. In addition, it would use nearly exclusively  
15 the existing power line footprint in the region.  
16 Alternative routes are very expensive and disruptive to  
17 both local towns and highways during the construction  
18 phase. The existing right-of-way is already available.

19 The project will relieve distribution  
20 constraints and improve east/west power flow. The Lake  
21 Road generating facility in Dayville will have potential  
22 to become a Connecticut asset rather than a Rhode Island  
23 facility is currently based on flow restrictions.  
24 Connecticut will have an improved ability to get power to

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 new customers and employers as well as to deal with power  
2 emergencies caused by storm outages. The equipment  
3 enhancement will provide additional property tax revenue  
4 to the towns through which the line runs. In the first  
5 year the project is complete preliminary estimates are  
6 that the property tax proceeds for the six towns in our  
7 service region through which the power line runs will  
8 total nearly one and a quarter million dollars.

9 In the three years of power line  
10 construction work approximately 500 construction jobs will  
11 be created, providing an opportunity to put people to work  
12 who have been hit hard in the recent recession. Federal  
13 authorities and ISO New England have recommended the  
14 proposed route and it only remains for Connecticut to  
15 agree. Some have advocated that an overhead alternative  
16 in Willimantic, a choice which could add \$20,000,000 to  
17 the multimillion dollar project within Connecticut. The  
18 underground alternative in Windham would add as much as  
19 340,000,000. The additional burden in each of these cases  
20 would likely be borne by Connecticut customers alone as a  
21 suitable less expensive route exists.

22 We urge the adoption of the recommended  
23 route using the existing footprint with the limited  
24 easement expansions that would allow access to available

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 less-expensive and renewable energy resources for  
2 residents as well as employers in the state. Further, it  
3 will help reduce the need to run less efficient and  
4 dirtier power plants at peak use periods to meet demand,  
5 will create construction jobs in the near term and protect  
6 and expand private sector job opportunities in the longer  
7 run, an addition that will increase property tax revenues  
8 to every town in our region through which the power line  
9 runs.

10 We urge support for the proposal and thank  
11 you for receiving our comments. The Chamber's Board  
12 Chair, Craig Courier (phonetic), who is a small  
13 businessman, operates CNT Construction in Windham, could  
14 not be here this evening. I have some comments from him,  
15 which I'd like to read into the record, but if that's not  
16 appropriate, I will submit them in written form.

17 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Let me just -- and this  
18 may or may not help, there are two other public meeting  
19 scheduled, actually the next one is tomorrow, again, at  
20 7:00 p.m., that's in Brooklyn. And the third one is next  
21 Tuesday, which is in Mansfield. I don't know whether  
22 he'll be able to attend either one of those?

23 MR. ADAMS: We'll try, and if not we'll  
24 submit them in writing.

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Submit -- that would be  
2 fine, thank you. The next speaker on the list is Eric  
3 Brown.

4 MR. ERIC BROWN: Good evening, Mr.  
5 Chairman, members of the Board. My name is Eric Brown, my  
6 address is P.O. Box 362 in Centerbrook, Connecticut. And  
7 I'm here as a representative of the Connecticut Business  
8 and Industry Association, where I handle energy and  
9 environmental policy matters.

10 We're really here just to emphasize to you  
11 how important -- we talk to our members, we survey our  
12 members, we interact with our members in a lot of  
13 different ways and we have roughly 10,000 of them across  
14 the state and energy consistently comes up as a major  
15 issue for them. They're trying to do business in  
16 Connecticut and certainly one component of their concern  
17 is reliability. And so we're here to voice our support  
18 for this project, in part because it will address not only  
19 current reliability challenges, but down the road there's  
20 a lot of unpredictability in terms of generation  
21 retirements, and we don't know exactly where our energy is  
22 going to come from down the road. So it's extremely  
23 important that we have an infrastructure in place that  
24 will provide a reliable source of energy to businesses and

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 residents throughout this part of our state.

2 So, it's key to existing businesses, it's  
3 also key to attracting new businesses as companies look  
4 around for places to come or expand certainly one of the  
5 things they're looking for is, where am I going to get my  
6 energy from? How confident can I be that not only now  
7 that it's there for me, but in the future depending on  
8 where policy goes and what happens with renewables and so  
9 forth, can I be assured that, you know, for the  
10 foreseeable future I can have a reliable source? So it's  
11 important for that purpose as well.

12 And thirdly, I just want to mention, in  
13 addition to CBI, I'm only here on behalf of CBI, but I  
14 also serve on the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board, and  
15 the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board as well. And  
16 we're all working very hard to implement the state policy  
17 of creating and getting cleaner and cheaper and more  
18 reliability -- more reliable energy to the state. And  
19 certainly this project works into a couple of those  
20 themes. We've talked about reliability, but also on the  
21 cleaner side, as you all know there's a big push to  
22 develop renewables. Connecticut has extremely aggressive  
23 targets for renewable energy by 2020 and once again, it's  
24 quite uncertain at this point on, A, whether we can meet

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 those goals. And, B, to the extent we can meet those  
2 goals where is that energy going to come from? It's  
3 clearly not all going to come from Connecticut, we're  
4 going to have to import that. And there are certainly  
5 major projects under development in Eastern New England  
6 and in the Boston, Rhode Island areas and it's going to be  
7 important again, to have the infrastructure in place if  
8 Connecticut is going to be able to take advantage of those  
9 newer renewable sources to get them in here.

10 So those are some of the main reasons that  
11 CBIA is in support of this project and we appreciate the  
12 opportunity to share those perspectives with you tonight.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. The next  
15 speaker, Frank Felber?

16 MR. FRANK FELBER: Hello. My name is Frank  
17 Felber. I live at 211 Card Street in Lebanon and I live  
18 about I'd say 100 feet from the existing power lines that  
19 are there right now and I own part of the right-of-way  
20 that's going to be coming through. And I was just --  
21 we've had a lot of problems there with people being on  
22 that property and by putting these new power lines up  
23 they're going to actually expand the opening to where  
24 these people come in. And I just wanted to make sure that

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 the Siting Council would do something to protect my area  
2 and there's other rights-of-way back there too that other  
3 people own, you know, maybe a fence or some sort of --just  
4 something to keep the people off my land and other  
5 people's land back there.

6 And I just wanted to ask, what's the -- I  
7 looked through the application that CL&P put into the  
8 Siting Council, and in back of my house -- they had  
9 readings of EMFs throughout the whole line, but in back of  
10 my house they didn't have EMF readings from the substation  
11 to like Cardsmill Road, I believe that's Columbia. And I  
12 just wanted to make sure that me and my family aren't  
13 going get fried from this new line being back there.

14 And one other thing is that they started  
15 putting some roads in, in the back there, and they're all  
16 big stone roads, and there used to be culverts there for  
17 the wetlands to drain down the hill. And now they put  
18 these roads in here and there's no -- there isn't any more  
19 culverts there, they're blocking the wetlands from doing  
20 its natural flow through the area and I'm just worried  
21 about my well itself, what it's going to do to my well, is  
22 it going to dry it out or what's going to happen with it?

23 And I figure that's something for you guys to take care  
24 of because, you know, your --

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 MR. COLIN TAIT: (Indiscernible, too far  
2 from mic.).

3 COURT REPORTER: Please turn your mic on.

4 MR. TAIT: Maybe there's a certain question  
5 you can ask directly after they and hopefully you'll get  
6 some answers.

7 MR. FELBER: -- okay. All right, I'm all  
8 set. Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN STEIN: Thank you. At the moment,  
10 that's all the people that have signed up. Is there  
11 anybody else who would like to speak at this point? I  
12 don't want to force anybody to speak. Obviously, there  
13 are representatives from CL&P. This is the beginning of  
14 the process, we are here tonight to take information,  
15 which we received this evening. There'll be a series of  
16 other hearings, and as I mentioned before, the next  
17 hearing is scheduled tomorrow, Thursday, April 19th at  
18 7:00 p.m. at the Quinebaug, if I'm pronouncing it  
19 correctly, Valley Senior Citizens Center at 69 South Main  
20 Street, Brooklyn, Connecticut. So I guess it's not too  
21 far away if some of you, not that I'm requiring that you  
22 come out two nights in a row, that's our job, but if you  
23 have any comments that you want to make tomorrow or again,  
24 as I mentioned, you can feel free to submit them in

HEARING RE: CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
APRIL 18, 2012

1 writing to the Council.

2 So at this point I want to thank you all  
3 for coming out and your participation and please drive  
4 home safely. Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at 7:50  
6 p.m.)